



***Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council
1011 E. Tudor Road, MS 201
Anchorage, AK 99503
Toll-Free 1-877-229-2344***

**Your Comments Requested on Proposed Regulations for 2005
Alaska Spring/Summer Migratory Bird Subsistence Harvest**

For Immediate Release
December 20, 2004

Contact: Doug Alcorn, Alaska Co-
Management Council, 907/786-3545

Today the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published in the Federal Register a Proposed Rule which would regulate the 2005 Alaska Spring/Summer Migratory Bird Subsistence Harvest. The Rule, a product of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (Council), sets dates between which such harvesting could occur, lists species that could be taken, describes means and methods of take that would be prohibited, and details areas of the state where residents are eligible to participate. Below is a summary of the proposed changes from the 2004 harvest regulations:

- 1) New inclusion of three Southeast Alaska communities - Craig, Hydaburg, and Yakutat for glaucous-winged gull egg gathering only;
- 2) Add St. Lawrence Island to the area exception allowing the use of live decoys to harvest auklets;
- 3) Close the harvesting of tundra swans in Units 9(D) and 10 to protect a small resident population of <500 tundra swans in the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge area; and
- 4) Add a provision to allow subsistence use of yellow-billed loons caught inadvertently in subsistence fishing (gill) nets on the North Slope.

The Council, which includes representatives from the Alaska Native community, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acting as equal partners, was formed with the specific purpose of developing recommendations related to the spring/summer subsistence harvest of migratory birds.”

Partner Members: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association, Bristol Bay Native Association, Association of Village Council Presidents, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes, Copper River Native Association, Chugach Regional Resources Commission, Kodiak Area Native Association, Kawerak Inc, Maniilaq Association, North Slope Borough, Tanana Chiefs Conference

These regulations proposed for 2005 are part of an annual process which the Council uses to refine the harvest parameters, as needed. The full text of the Proposed Rule is available on the internet at (<http://alaska.fws.gov/ambcc/index.htm>). Interested parties without access to the internet can receive a copy by calling (toll-free 1-877-229-2344, William Ostrand). Public comments on the Rule will be accepted through **February 18, 2004**. The Final Rule, as advised by comments received on the Proposed Rule, will be published upon conclusion of the 30-day comment period.

The Alaska Spring/Summer Migratory Bird Subsistence Harvest is scheduled to open on April 2, 2005 in most parts of the state, but only if the Final Rule is published in the Federal Register by then. The publication of the Final Rule will be followed by a mail-out distribution of the 2005 Harvest Regulations Booklets by the Service.

Partner Members: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association, Bristol Bay Native Association, Association of Village Council Presidents, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes, Copper River Native Association, Chugach Regional Resources Commission, Kodiak Area Native Association, Kawerak Inc, Maniilaq Association, North Slope Borough, Tanana Chiefs Conference